

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

TEACH ME, GIVE ME, MAKE ME

PSALMS 119:33-40

Text:

Introduction:

We will consider from this passage:

- Learning the Way of God
- Living the Way of God
- Leaving the Way of God

Sermon Content:

Notice

1. LEARNING THE WAY OF GOD (VS. 33-37, 39)

To learn the way of God, one must get in the Word of God, the main theme of this chapter. We note six things about the way of God which the Word of God reveals to us.

Note:

A. It is Not Common (vs. 33-34)

Psalm 119:33-34

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. ³⁴ Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

The way of God is a distinctive way that is separate from other ways.

It requires one to be taught if he would learn the way of God, and it requires Divine understanding to perceive the way of God.

The way of God is not the common way that most people live.

Not only is it Not Common but also:

B. It is Not Popular (vs. 35)

Psalm 119:35

³⁵ Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.

The word "path" tells us the way of God is not popular. It is not super highway, nor the main road, but just a path.

A path is not crowded like a main highway or road or boulevard.

Matthew 7:13-14

¹³ Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: ¹⁴ Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

This passage speaks of the unpopularity of God's way.

Note it is only a few there be that find it.

The Lord spoke to the little flock in Luke

Luke 12:32

³² Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

If all the claimed converts of our super churches were real, it would still be a drop in the bucket compared to the multitudes that are going other than God's way.

Not only is it Not Common or Popular but also:

C. It is Not Easy (vs. 35-37)

Psalm 119:35-37

³⁵ Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight. ³⁶ Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness. ³⁷ Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.

No one who has tried to live God's way will say that it is easy.

Matthew 7:13-14

*¹³ Enter ye in at the **strait** gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: ¹⁴ Because **strait** is the gate, and **narrow** is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

These verses speaks of the difficulties.

Your will note three ways in this psalm that indicates that God's way is not an easy way.

Note:

- The Need of Insistence – “Make me to go in the path of thy commandments” (vs. 35)

It is so difficult to walk God's ways that the psalmist prays that God will "*make me*" go the right way. God has many ways of making us do the right thing.

- The Need of Inclination – “Incline my heart unto thy testimonies” (vs. 36)

The psalmist wants to walk according to the Word of God. It is so difficult to do this that one must be inclined to walk according to the Word if he is to do it.

- The Need of Invigoration – “Quicken thou me” (vs. 37)

Quicken is to give life, to invigorate. The psalmist needs help to walk God's way. He cannot do it in his own strength.

Not only is it Not Common, Popular or Easy but also:

D. It Is Not Respected (vs. 39)

Psalm 119:39

³⁹ Turn away my reproach which I fear: for thy judgments are good.

The way of God brings reproach from the world who mocks and scorns God's way and anyone who walks therein.

God's way is not esteemed by society, so to walk in it will not gain respect and accolades.

Sometimes when people get saved and their whole life is changed for the better, it is a puzzle why their friends and relatives do not rejoice but rather criticize.

The reason is right here. God's way, though wonderful it may be, is scorned by the world.

Not only is it Not Common, Popular, Easy or Respected but also:

E. It Is Without Fault (vs. 39)

Psalm 119:39

³⁹ *Turn away my reproach which I fear: for **thy judgments are good.***

The Word of God which tells us of God's way, is "good"; therefore what it tells us is "good."

God's way is good though the world says it is a bad way. God's way is without fault, it is so good.

We have considered the importance of "Learning the Way of God" note secondly:

2. LIVING THE WAY OF GOD (VS. 33-40)

Psalm 119:33-40

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. ³⁴ Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart. ³⁵ Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight. ³⁶ Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness. ³⁷ Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way. ³⁸ Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear. ³⁹ Turn away my reproach which I fear: for thy judgments are good. ⁴⁰ Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy righteousness.

We see in these verses how one should live God's way.

Note:

A. Consistently (vs. 33)

Psalm 119:33

*³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and **shall keep it unto the end.***

The only way to live God's way is consistently, faithfully, and steadfastly. Those who do not live it consistently will not be satisfied, for the good results of

living God's way only comes to those who live it consistently.

Not only should live God's way "Consistently" but also:

B. Enthusiastically (vs. 34)

Psalm 119:34

³⁴ Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, ***I shall observe it with my whole heart.***

Half-hearted Christianity is unacceptable.

If you are going to do anything in the area of living God's way, do it with all your energy and enthusiasm.

Dragging your feet is not the way to live for God and will be a very disappointing life.

Not only should live God's way "Consistently" and "Enthusiastically" but also:

C. Cheerfully (vs. 35)

Psalm 119:35

³⁵ Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for ***therein do I delight.***

It is one thing to walk in God's way; it is another to walk cheerfully in God's way.

Some who are walking in God's way do so sourly, not cheerfully.

This dishonors God and His way.

A sad and sour countenance reflects poorly on God's way.

The Christian life is to be enjoyed and not endured.

Not only should live God's way "Consistently," "Enthusiastically," and "Cheerfully" but also:

D. Respectfully (vs. 38-39)

Psalm 119:38-39

³⁸ *Stablish thy word unto thy servant, **who is devoted to thy fear.*** ³⁹ *Turn away my reproach which I fear: for thy judgments are good.*

If you do not respect God's way, you will probably not walk in God's way. The world does not respect it, but the believer ought to respect it. If you criticize and complain about God's way, you dishonor it and will not be walking in it very long.

Not only should live God's way "Consistently," "Enthusiastically," "Cheerfully," and "Respectfully" but also:

E. Prayerfully (vs. 33-40)

Psalm 119:33-40

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. ³⁴ Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart. ³⁵ Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight. ³⁶ Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness. ³⁷ Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way. ³⁸ Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear. ³⁹ Turn away my reproach which I fear: for thy judgments are good. ⁴⁰ Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy righteousness.

All of these verses are a prayer.

A lack of prayer will encourage departure from the way of God.

Prayer is needed to gain strength to walk in God's way which is not an easy way to walk but a most difficult way to walk.

We have considered the importance of “Learning the Way of God” and “Living the Way of God” note lastly:

3. LEAVING THE WAY OF GOD (VS. 36-40)

Psalm 119:36-40

³⁶ Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness. ³⁷ Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way. ³⁸ Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear.

³⁹ Turn away my reproach which I fear: for thy judgments are good. ⁴⁰ Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy righteousness.

Leaving the way of God is a great tragedy. It dishonors God and causes great troubles for the one who has departed God's way.

There are several hindrances to walking with God some of which are mentioned in these verses. We will just mention them briefly.

The Desires of the Flesh – “Covetousness” (vs. 36)

The Defilement of Eyes – “Turn away mine eyes” (vs. 37)

The Doubts of the Mind – “Stablish thy word unto thy servant” (vs. 38)

Dullness of Spirit – “Quicken me in thy righteousness” (vs 40)

Close:

The psalmist had the desire to be taught, given understanding, made to go, incline his heart, his eyes turned away, stablished in God's Word, and the reproach turned away.

May that be our prayer this evening as well.